(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider its decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incoming call facility was withdrawn from Public Call offices, except in the case of Student hostel (residential) and working women's hostels, as it came to the notice that some STD|PCOs with incoming call facility were being misused as private telephones and use of incoming facility in STD|PCOs was defeating the very purpose of providing STD PCOs, namely to enable the general Public to make calls from such PCOs.

(c) This issue is being reviewed

Auction of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels by SCICI

@*136. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the SCICI not to auction deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to encourage the original entrepreneurs to revive and operate such sick fishing vessels; and

(d) whether in view of problems in the deep sea fishery sector Government propose to advance easy loans to entrepreneurs based in Andhra Pradesh ?

@Previously starred question 56 transferred from 28th April, 1993.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government's jurisdiction in matters pertaining to SCICI arises only in respect of SCICI's role as an agent of Government under the SDFC (Abolition) Act. Under this Act, SCICI acts as a "designated person" (viz. an agent) of Government. SCICI's functions in respect of the coercive recovery of loans disbursed by the erstwhile SDFC extends to the appointment of Receivers who, in turn, have powers to independently decide whether and when to seize and auction specific fishing vessels. The question of SCICI auctioning such vessels, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government of India announced guidelines for the rehabilitation of sick but viable fishing companies assisted by the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) on April 4, 1991. Further relaxations were given in April, 1992 in response to requests from the Industry. The scheme envisaged various concessions which included waiver of penal interest, recapitalisation of overdue amounts repayable over the balance economic life of the vessel, additional financial assistance for meeting the increased cost of acquisition of vessels, and assistance for repair and modification of vessels. No additional facilities are proposed solely for entrepreneurs based in Andhra Pradesh.

Promotion of Tourists Spots in Orissa

*137. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Central Government from the Government of Orissa to promote tourism and develop tourist spots in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the details of the tourist spots district-wise; and